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SHINING IN SCOTLAND

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven

Camp Heatherbell

Time spent in fellowship with brethren. See page 4 for details.

S.O.S. University

Perth youth day a success! See page 5 for more info.

Youth Work

Summer Connection Youth Club was a great success. Find out more!

A Time of Growth for Perth church.

Moving Day coming up.

Focus on Perth, page 2.

Welcome

Dear friends,

Summer has been busy, busier even than usual, and as a result I am a little behind with my reports. I thank you that you are so understanding and pray that this report finds you well. It is also possible to use one of the good aspects of social media and keep up with me and the church via Facebook. If you are on Facebook please feel free to 'like' our Perth church of Christ Facebook page and stay up to date with all of our goings on. I obviously do not go into as much detail is here, but am able to update the Facebook on a more consistent basis. Without any further ado, let me tell you how the church in Perth is doing.



Focus on Perth

This month saw us take steps to continue the Lord's work in Perth

- We looked into the possibility of moving to accommodate evening worship services and more time for fellowship.
- Helped at Camp Heatherbell, taking 10 youth from Perth.
- Created and ran our own Summer Connection Youth Club.
- An increasing number of kids from youth club have begun attending worship.
- You have been a huge piece of the puzzle when trying to bring Perth to the Lord. Without you there is no work in Perth and because of your support, God is glorified in the ancient capital of Scotland!

Please continue to pray for the church here in Scotland. confirming support for the next year, if you can keep me in mind when confirming budgets I would be very grateful. God bless.

Personal News

Where to start with personal news over this summer? I told you in my last report how Allana and I are now engaged. This summer has seen us begin to plan everything for our wedding in Philippines in December 2020. We have made things that little bit more difficult for ourselves planning our wedding from thousands of miles away, however, we are blessed with good advice and family in Philippines that are willing to take on some of the load. Please keep us in your prayers as we try to find a location and date to tell our friends and family.

My niece, Mackenzie, and nephew, Mikey, continue to grow. Mikey is very independent at 18 month old and prefers to walk than be in his pram. He always wants to be outside, running around and jumping on grass, trees etc. He is very outgoing already and learning to speak more and more. I think Michelle may have preferred when he was a baby! Mackenzie is starting 4th year of high school in a week and is looking forward to it, so she says anyway. Her school is newly built, but before they moved the school opened the old building for anyone who wished to come see inside before it was demolished. Pretty much my entire family went to the school and a number of old teachers were there. As well as that a number of people I hadn't seen since high school went along and it was good to see everyone. Sometimes, when looking backwards like that we can see how far we have come.

Eleven years ago I was leaving that school and had only recently started to attend Bible class/worship services in Cumbernauld. Now, I live in a different city, attempting to plant the seed of a new congregation of the Lord's church and work with kids who are just like I was. God has done wonderful things in my life and I pray that He continues to do so for my



Summer 2019 (May, June, July, and August)

family. Please pray for them, their health and that they may come to know God.

Youth Work

Our Connection Youth Club has been going from strength to strength for months now and May and June were no exception. We finished the last few weeks with somewhat of a flourish at the youth club as had a large number of new kids show up and join. We are blessed by how much the children love the youth club that they continue to come and are always excited to tell their friends about it. Someone recently asked me what advertising we do for the youth club and I had to stop for a second. We don't do any advertising and haven't done for years, the kids just keep turning up!



Maurice was unwell for the last few weeks of the youth club and unable to take his class.

As a result we adapted in a number of ways. Allana and Rona both took classes, on

occasion Polly took the 8-11 year olds and I took the older class, with Brian filling in some weeks. Basically, if you showed up on a Wednesday night and I know you are a competent teacher of the Gospel there's a good chance you'll be teaching a class. In all seriousness, we have stuck to our teaching plan and rota as much as possible and have adapted well when necessary. This is a



huge step for us as, around four years ago when we started the youth club, we had one class for 5 minutes taught by me. Now we are blessed with enough willing Christians to staff the youth club and work in a flexible environment to bring the Gospel to the kids in this community.

Of course, our youth club takes a break for the summer as the school we use is closed. However, at time of writing we are less than a week from starting up again. Praying for another successful year.

Connection Youth Club Extra

Back in May we decided to do our annual campaign a bit



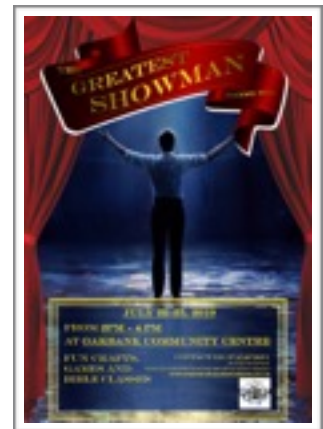
Summer 2019 (May, June, July, and August)

differently. We realised that because Wednesday is really the only point of contact we have with the youth (and most of the parents) we were losing numbers by delaying our campaigns to the summer. In order to help with this we decided to have our VBS without the



Vacation part. This meant that we could advertise to the kids, keep it fresh in their mind and capitalise on the fact that we are guaranteed a large attendance on our regular youth club day (Wednesday). This proved a good move as our Youth Club Extra was very well attended as the week progressed and, by the time we reached Wednesday, the kids who had come all week were hoping for more. This led us to think this could be even more successful if we simply started out Youth Club Extra on a Wednesday or Tuesday.

We had Kyle Rye and, Todd and Pam Newman from Buford church of Christ join us and help to run the youth club. They did an excellent job and it was a pleasure to see them work alongside the local Christians and form relationships with the youth here. It is this kind of work, forming relationships, that is really vital here. In this environment, where few people attend worship or believe in God, it is too easy for youth to fall away. However, it is these relationships that allow them the time to develop a faith in God.

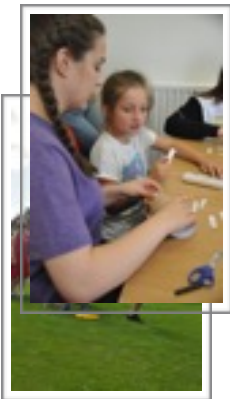


Summer Connection Youth Club

This year the church in Perth decided to not have a group over for our Summer Connection Youth Club (our version of VBS) and instead try to organise and run everything. We had some help from two couples from the US who came to visit with us. However, the theme, lessons and schedule



were all completed by members of the Perth church, including the youth. We came up with the theme 'The Greatest Showman' and discussed what things God was trying to show us through specific accounts in the Scriptures. We also took a trip out to the Black Linn falls near



Summer 2019 (May, June, July, and August)

Dunkeld to the north of Perth. A number of the children came with us and we had a great time

climbing on the rocks and exploring everything. These times show the trust the parents have in us

as a result of all our

work over the last few years. Throughout the week the

kids heard lessons about how God is our strength, God

loves and forgives, God died for us and God rose again. These are the things God wants to show us through the accounts we selected and we pray that we have planted the seeds

of some great growth in their lives.



We limited ourselves to having one class and taking part in

activities as a

group instead of

splitting up into

classes. This

allowed us some

flexibility when

it came to

responsibilities and allowed all of our staff

to be focussed on one activity at a time.

This approach worked very well for us and

we are considering making this an annual

fixture for the church. A more basic version of our

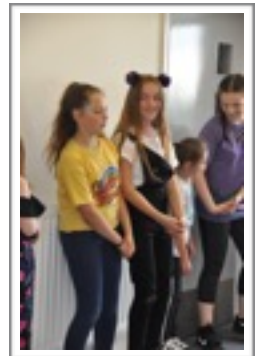
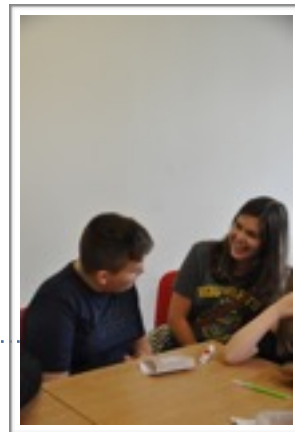
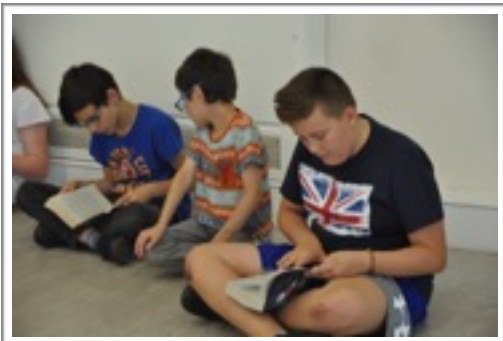
typical VBS taking place in one

room. The feedback from the

children was very encouraging

and, after this, some of the kids

attended worship services.



Camp Heatherbell



Every summer the youth from various congregations around Scotland gather at Camp Heatherbell. The Camp is now more than 50 years old and has been a huge blessing to countless Christians in the last half-century. The theme this year was 'He-Brexit' and focused on the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

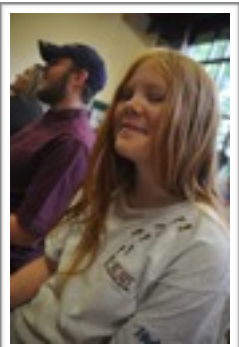
Steven Barr, from Cumbernauld, and I took the 11-13 year old class and tried to lead the youth on a journey through the journey out of Egypt to the Promised Land.



The week must be something of a surreal experience for the youth of Scotland as it is very rare they are surrounded by people of like faith, singing hymns about God, learning lessons



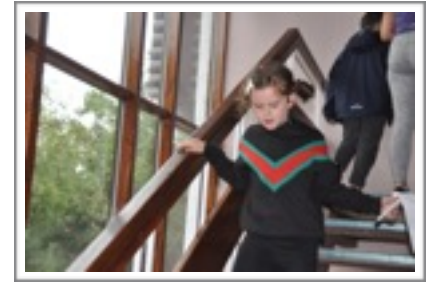
around love and forgiveness. For them seeing the family of God together is eye opening and camp is often the thing that first catches their attention or demonstrates the expression of a seriously and sincerely held faith. It cannot be underestimated how much of an impact camp has on so many and it has been proven over the years. Even those children who do not come to the Lord in the end, always remember that they were cared for and part of something special at Camp. It is a picture of what they could have in the church and we pray that they open their hearts to his message.



Once again Steven and I organised the annual Bible

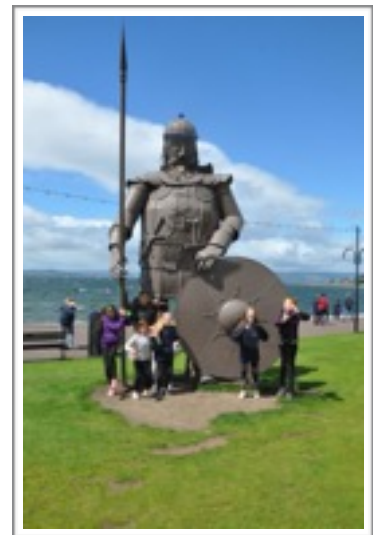


Bowl. The questions completed the theme over the last few years of following Paul through the book of Acts. There seems to be a nervousness that goes around camp regarding the Bible Bowl, but once again all of the kids did great and especially the junior team of the winners; Strachan House. It seems unlikely that their score will ever be bettered, however, it is up to the other teams to study hard and prove me wrong!



During the week the kids, in their four houses, Brunton, Cameron, Hughes, and Strachan, compete in sports for the

House Cup. This year Hughes won for the very first time. It is amazing to see the joy that both of our winners this year took in winning the trophies; it is truly a time they will never forget and a feeling that they rarely get anywhere else.



They work as a team toward a goal for the whole week and, win or lose, it always pays off. They gain friendships, stronger ties, examples of faith in action all around, an understanding of working together and, last but not least, maybe a trophy. But, by the end, they know who is most important; God. So many of the kids shared during class time or when they were heading



off to bed that they wished they could stay at camp. It is, for many of them, the only place they are not isolated by their faith. For us in Perth this is what the Connection Youth Club is all about, providing a place that they do not need to be embarrassed or ashamed and they can grow their faith in the Lord.

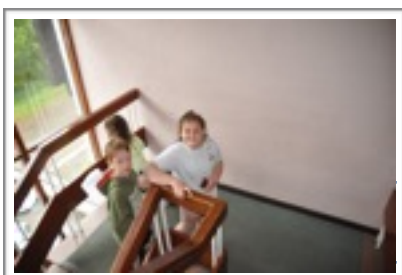
Sunday Preaching Schedule

We continue to move through our 'God Has Spoken' preaching schedule. Over the last few weeks topics have included 'Does God keep His promises?' and 'What promises does God make after this life?'. This has been a great introduction to the Bible for a lot of our young visitors who have only recently begun to attend worship.



This schedule has provided a good overview of the

church, beliefs of Christians and, primarily, the Bible. These lessons have led to a number of questions and, I am hopeful, personal Bible studies in the near future.



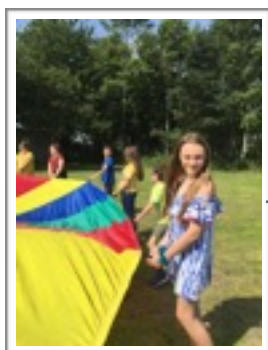
Specific Prayer Requests

Cara Stevenson

Over the last few months we have been blessed to see Cara's faith begin to grow. In summer 2018 we met Cara during our summer barbecue. Cara had been one of the original youth to come to the Connection Youth Club, but had stopped coming along for one reason or another. However, after our chance meeting last summer Cara began attending Bible class and youth club now and then and later on a more regular basis. Around March, Cara began attending worship services and has done so regularly ever since. This is a very big step towards a lasting faith and has come as a bit of a surprise to us as we thought Cara had drifted off from youth club like so many other kids do.

Obviously, we are thrilled to be proven wrong and, having underestimated God, we

received a lesson in trusting Him. Apart from a tonsillitis related absence and a short holiday Cara has been ever present at worship. Please pray for her growing faith as we begin a study together in the next few weeks.



Enrika Labanauskaite

Over the last few months we have been blessed to get to know Enrika and her family. Enrika came to the youth club through a friend that has been coming for a number of years. She took to the Connection Club like a duck to water and was excited to attend Camp Heatherbell, Connection Extra and our Summer Connection Club this year. Most excitingly Enrika has also begun to attend worship on a regular basis and has expressed interest in a Bible study also.

While planning my week I am starting to have so many studies I have to combine them! This is a great problem to have and I covet your prayers as Enrika and I (most likely together with Roberta) study the Scriptures.

Adult Training Classes - May

In combination with our youth work during May, we hosted a number of studies for adults during the day over the course of four days. From Monday to Thursday we gathered at a large house just to the north of Perth and discussed evangelism in depth. The ladies and men hosted separate studies, with the ladies studying relationships with husbands led by Pam Newman and the men studying how to better prepare and hone sermons and classes with Todd Newman and Kyle Rye. Both of these studies were very well received and it was a joy to be present. I have already implemented some of the techniques taught during this week and have found it has improved the way the class engages with the lesson and has increased feedback. Becoming comfortable teaching the Word and reaching out to others is the only way we can ensure the continuation of the church here in Perth and beyond. It is our aim to encourage and equip all Christians to be missionary minded in all facets of life and having the skill and confidence to rightly divide the Word is key to this aim being realised. Please pray that God can give us a heart for the lost and dedication to preach His Word.



S.O.S. University

To top off our May campaign we had an entire day dedicated to Seek Out Souls in Perth. We called it S.O.S. University and were treated to fantastic lessons on the subject of evangelism by Kyle Rye and Todd Newman.

This was hugely encouraging for all our brethren here and gave them a chance to discuss obstacles they face or fears they have surrounding evangelism. The encouragement and tips we received



Summer 2019 (May, June, July, and August)

during this day will carry benefit to a number of congregations in Scotland as we aim to carry the Gospel into all of our communities. In S.O.S. University, which we hope will become an annual event, we are attempting to spread the blessing S.O.S. has been to us to our sister congregations.

We also hope this will open doors to hosting regular S.O.S. sessions in other cities and towns in Scotland.

Please pray that we can effectively spread the Word of God in our communities.

Billy and Heidi Hudgens, and Josh and Emily Smith



We were blessed to welcome friends of ours from the Avalon church in Florida over the summer. They came along and helped out at our Summer Connection Youth Club as well as Billy taking our Sunday class and Josh preaching for us on Sunday morning. It was great getting to know these precious couples and learn from one another as we are undertaking similar works in very different circumstances. The kids quickly took to their new American friends and asked them all sorts of weird and wonderful questions. The thing about the work in Scotland is that you never know what seed you planted in the heart of people you may have



only met for a relatively short time. Those children who met the Hudgens family and the Smiths will remember the love and care demonstrated by strangers who became friends.

These kids will form the foundation of the church in Perth for years to come, but that will only happen if we pour all of ourselves into reaching out. So many of you have an impact that you may never see due to living so far away, but it was a blessing to see these couples invest in these children and see their own impact firsthand. We await God to give the increase. Thank you!

Plans for the Future

Summer 2019 (May, June, July, and August)

Since just before the summer we have been looking for a suitable place to move our worship services. The reasons for this have been discussed with members after worship services. The main issues include that our current place of worship does not allow us time to fellowship after worship services. As such, we often see each other only briefly, a new building can better facilitate fellowship. Our current building is also not really close to the community where we do most of our work. Due to the fact that we work with a number of children they are willing to come to services, however, bringing kids to



worship can often prove an extra effort for their non-church going parents. We hope by moving into this area (in the same street as some of the kids) we will be able to bring them to worship easily and plant ourselves at the heart of this community for generations. The building we are moving to has also just been bought by a community group after lying empty for a number of years. As a result, we are able to support this effort, this community, simply by using the building and encouraging others to do so as well. We hope that this new home will be fruitful for us as

we also add an evening service to our schedule. As of yet we have never had an evening service (although our old service was in the afternoon) and hope that this will work for kids and parents alike. We are also planning on adding Bible classes to our evening roster depending on attendance etc. of local kids. Please pray for this move and our efforts in this community.

I am also blessed to be speaking at the European Christian Workshop in Lancaster, England. I was drafted in as a late replacement and, as such, have been flat out trying to get lessons ready for the theme of 'Journey' and considering the life of the apostle Paul; a huge subject! This



has already been a challenging and interesting study. Please pray for me as I head down to Lancaster on the 22nd August for three days.

Summer 2019 (May, June, July, and August)

As always, we look to the future with confidence that God is bringing something wonderful through His people all over the world. Glory to God for all He has done and for who He is.

Please continue to pray for us. God bless you!

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things

Romans 10:15

How shall we preach unless we are sent?

Thank you for your support.